FEEDLINE

BULLETIN OF THE CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Affiliated with the "American Radio Relay League"

DECEMBER....1990

The C A R C meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 19th at the EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CENTER.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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VE TEST RESULTS

On Saturday November 24th, Dick Stellarini WB8VUN, VE Coordinator for CARC, and his team of Volunteers, conducted their final exams for 1990.

Fourteen applicants took the tests. Of those fourteen, eight were successful in up-grading their license, five earned Certificate of Completion for passing some elements and only one failed to pass the Novice exam.

We now have one new Extra Class, one new Advanced Class, three new General Class and three new Technician Class licensees in our area. There were ten from Stark County, two from Summit County and two from Tuscarawas County taking the exams. Two of the recent graduates from the CARC Novice class, Dale Storey and James Thrasher, took and passed the Technician exam.

Our congratulations to this fine group for their success.

Team members that did the grading and took care of all the paper work for this session, were Randy KD8JN, John NM8K and Mike WA8MKH.

Dick WB8VUN, has released the following dates for the 1991 examination schedule. They are February 23rd, May 25th, August 31th and November 30th. These exams will be given at the Stark County EOC. Fee for 1991 has been increased to $5.25. You may pay with cash or make your check out to ARRL/VEC. Of course, there is no fee for the Novice Exam.

The preferred method for registration for any exam, is to call Dick at least one week in advance of the test date. Make sure you bring your original license and a copy to attach to the 610 form. Also additional identification (such as your drivers license) should be brought along.

Dick WB8VUN and his team, have been doing an outstanding job administering these exams. We are proud that the team represents Canton Amateur Radio Club. The applicants also praise the EOC facilities.

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1991 CARC 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

If you are reading this, you are still on the mailing list. THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.

Unfortunately, too many have not renewed as of December 1st, the cut-off date for making the new mailing list for the fiscal year (which is still October 1st thru October 1st of the following year).

Nine of them, plus three family members, were Sustaining Members that were honored with their names placed on the Sustaining Member Honor Roll. Application for Membership in CARC is printed in the September, October and November Feedline, plus the two month grace period is given from October 1st till December 1st, before their names are dropped from the mailing list. "WHY HAVEN'T THEY RENEWED???" is the big question. Are they just forgetful? Are they losing interest in our wonderful hobby? Are they anti-social? Aren't they interested in reading about what is going on with their fellow Amateurs and their hobby? I don't have the answers. If you talk to any of them, ask them.

Their calls are: AA4YZ, W8ATX, KB8AYL, KB8CDD, W8CFJ, WD8CIM, WA8CMT, KB8CQD, N8CXG, WA8EYM, N8FCW, N8FEB, N8FED, N8FRU, KE8G, KB8GK, N8GPB, K8HSQ, KB8HWV, N8IFF, N8IHX, W8IM, KB8IMT, KB8IRO, KB8IYT, WD8JTR, N8KCC, WD8KCT, W8KDM, N8KHJ, N8LZB, W8MIJ, KA8MNU, WA8NZE, KA8OZL, KE8SD, KD8TA, KA8KTH, W8TTJ, W8TUW, KA8TVV, KA8TYP, K8WDR, KA8WWT, KC8XQ, KA8YMQ, KA8YMU, plus two non-hams.

This being the Fiftieth Anniversary for Canton Amateur Radio Club, I thought the enthusiasm would be way up there. This should be our biggest year with everyone taking pride in being a member of CARC.

I will be publishing the 1991 membership list in the near future. Then you will know who your fellow members are. If you talk to any of the delinquent members, remind them.

SILENT KEYS

Yes, the headline is plural, unfortunately. I am sure that most of you that are active on the airways, have heard that Frank Robison KA8FUZ became a Silent Key on November 12th. Frank was very active with many facets of Amateur Radio and in his second hobby of hunting. He really enjoyed his two main hobbies.

On November 28th, Alexander Morrison K8NJH became a Silent Key. Al was not very active on the airways but I am sure some of you had worked him.

The latest is Ed Langefeld W8DCC. Our sympathy to the family and friends of Frank, Al and Ed.

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CARC NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The November 21, 1990 regular meeting of the Canton Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Myron Koyle N8DHT, at the Emergency Preparedness Center. A round of introductions followed with 40 members and 6 guests in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The President dispensed with the Treasurer's Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the October meeting and they were approved as published.

The club received a letter from Michael King KA8NAJ. Michael received the Richard Chichester Memorial Scholarship presented by the Foundation for Amateur Radio. Michael plans to use this scholarship to complete his Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering Technology at the University of Akron. Michael wished to thank the club for sponsoring him for this scholarship.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Myron N8DHT, reminded the Officers, Trustees and Chairman of Committees and Special Interest Groups, of the Executive Committee Meetings to be held on the Monday before the club meeting.

Myron also presented some ideas for the club to think about:
1. Increasing the areas Amateur population by sponsoring school club stations.
2. The 50th Anniversary of CARC - Should this event be separate from or in conjunction with the 1991 QCWA International Convention?

Myron passed out paper and asked the members present, to write down any ideas or suggestions for programs for the club meetings.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Dick Stellarini WB8VUN, reported four completed the Novice Course.

Chuck Henley N8LIV, reported on the Digital Communication Group. The group needs someone with a Commodore 64 and PK232 TNC, that would be willing to demonstrate their station.

The group has compiled a set of instructions for the IBM clone with the PK232, to help make operation much easier. The group also has instructions available for the Commodore 64 with the PK232 and the IBM clone with the MFJ line of TNC.

Denny Frey K8NIB, reported on the Home Brew Group. At the last meeting, Denny made available PC boards for a direction finder project. Denny is happy to report that one has successfully been completed. There will be no Home Brew meeting in December. A meeting will be scheduled for January and the date will be announced on the Sunday & Tuesday nets.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Frank Dearman W8TUY, reported on the club repeater. The club repeater signal is getting into the hospital TV system. A solution to the problem has been found but Frank will need volunteers to re-program all 680 hospital TV sets. Frank and Denny are also trying to solve the weak signal problems with the repeater.

W8EK REPORT: Ken Simpson reported that a Federal Court has oral arguments on the 220 MHZ issue and will issue a judgement. The FCC is working on a plan to move the 80 meter Novice band down 25 KHZ. The ARRL Great Lakes Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 23 & 24, 1991. In 1991, the cost to take a VE exam will be $5.25. Callsigns issued - Extra Class is up to AA8CL, Advanced Class is up to KF8KC, Tech/General is up to N8NAN and the Novice Class is up to KB8KVW.

50/50 DRAWING: Winner of $18.50 is Frank W8TUY.

Ken Simpson donated some back issues of Ham Magazines. Tickets were drawn to give these away.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM for coffee, donuts and eyeball QSO's.

Respectively Submitted by
Jerry Shrigley KA8AHF
CARC Secretary

Typed and submitted by
Sandy Shrigley KB8FZX
CARC Secretary's Secretary

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FOR SALE - Argonaut 509 Transceiver including 4.5 Amp Tripp-Lite Power Supply with Antenna Balun. All in good condition and working order. Call Jim Gnagy KA8UWU on 499-6995 for info or to make an offer.

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1991 CALLBOOKS PURCHASED

THANKS to CARC and Ken-Mar, the new 1991 North American and 1991 International Callbooks have been purchased and in the hands of the volunteer custodians.

Again, the North American edition is in the hands of Bill K8JZN. He

uses this to update the Stark County Amateur Directory.

The International edition, is in the hands of Art W8FEC.

If your callbook is getting old and the address you need is not there, give Bill or Art a call and get the latest address.

If you find you need several every week, then you need a new callbook. This service is for the occasional new call and not for daily use.

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WHAT IS HAM RADIO?

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HAM?

From Ham News Outlet by Jack W6KAS/Colleen N6NIB

It is the only legally recognized licensed hobby type function, in contrast to stamp collecting, water skiing, woodwork, etc.. The frequencies for exclusive Amateur use, certain obligations on the part of the licensee were understood and expected. The military and government agencies have looked upon the Amateur community as a pool of technically competent and trained communications personnel.

In emergencies and in times of war, the Amateur community forms the largest single group of TRAINED individuals, skilled not only in communications, but in technical understanding. Indeed, Congress, through the FCC is granting licenses, uses the phrase "Picon", literally "Public Interest and Convenience". We exist only because we offer a potential service to our community and our nation, NOT because of our casual interest in chatter. We justify our desistance through membership and active participation in drills and practice for emergencies and in service to our communities. Our secondary technical competence serves as a substantial back-up to more skilled technical and repair staff.

Emergency communication requires competent understanding and experience, gained only through practice. While Hams are said to "come out of the woodwork during an emergency", without recognized identification, qualification and training by RACES, they CAN NOT be used during a Real Emergency. This is the LAW, not a whim.

To put off action until the disaster strikes, is to invite a great deal of confusion, hardship and loss that might be averted by a good disaster response program.

Being asked to participate in a designated area is a MUST to prepare Ourselves for the BIG ONE. PLEASE REMEMBER, your obligation as a Ham is for Community Service as a TRAINED COMMUNICATOR. ARES, RACES are the recognized bodies, serving in an effective manner. To keep our hobby interests, requires our payment in service. To do otherwise, may result in transfer of our frequencies to the commercial interest who can show need.

Jack W6KAS/Colleen N6NIB

NET/ROM NODES - WHY AND HOW

There now exists across the country a fairly large number of NET-ROM type of nodes which are used to facilitate digital communications. These dedicated digital stations permit users to send data or files or electronic messages (E-Mail) with reasonable reliability. The three major uses that have developed over the past several years are:

    1. Electronic mail via the many Bulletin Board Systems (BBS).
    2. Real-time DX alerting via the DX PacketCluster systems.
    3. Keyboard to keyboard communications over short to medium ranges
       (across town to across the state with reasonable reliability).

For our purposes, it is sufficient to say that most all BBS's and PacketCluster systems can communiate with each other over the NetRom network. The question is how can you as a user make use of the network? The answer is that it is really very simple! You must think of the nodes as an extension of your radio/tnc. The NetRom commands are few in number and very simple. To connect to one of the local NetRom nodes on 145.01Mhz, just type from your TNC's command mode the following:

C K8EIW-1   Will connect you to AKR:K8EIW-1, which is
or C AKR   the user port to the NetRom Packet network.

When you connect to the local NetRom node, it awaits a command. If you forget what they are, type a '?' and the answer will come back to you!

AKR:K8EIW-1 Invalid Command (CONNECT CQ IDENT NODES PARMS ROUTES USERS)

Don't panic at the words "invalid command" - that just means that the node doesn't know what you want to do - yet! The first command that you may wish to use is the "NODES" command. This command will tell you what other nodes your local node "knows" how to route towards. The list can be quite extensive. By typing:

N or N *   Gives a display similiar to this:

[The "*" adds the "Hidden" nodes (Aliases prefixed by #)]
AKR:K8EIW-1 NODES:

#AKRU:K8EIW-2	#CAMB2:W8VP-2	#CANU:K8EIW-6	#CANX:K8EIW-15
#CLEDX:WB8BII-9	#CLEU:K8EIW-8	#CMH:K1LT-1	#CMHDX:K1LT-6
#CMHU1:K1LT-4	#CMHU2:K1LT-7	#CMHV:N8EMR-5	#GNSY2:K8AL-2
#GNSYU:K8AL-3	#HOPWL:NG8P-3	#MANDX:WB8DII-12	#MANU:WB8BII-11
#MTGU:K8EIW-12	#OLVGN:W8FNW-4	#PERRY:K8AL-5	#TUSCO:K8KSN-2
#WAYU:K8EIW-14	460404:KA8Z-4	460406:WA8BXN-2	460420:K8EIW-4
460431:WB8LYJ-4	AKR220:K8EIW-11	AKROH:WB8BII-10	AKRON:K8EIW
CAMB91:W8VP-1	CAN:K8EIW-3	CAN2:K8EIW-5	CLE1:K8EIW-7
CLE220:K8EIW-9	CLEIP:N8HSP-4	CMH:K1LT-2	CMHIP:N8EMR
CMHLAN:K1LT-3	CMBQSO:W8VP-3	FRE01:KA8TEF-1	FRE220:KA8TEF-3
GLNIP:N8ERI-4	GNSY:K8AL-1	MADIP:WA8PKS-4	MERCER:W3LIF
MFD:WB8BII-13	MFD220:WB8BII-14	MTG:K8EIW-10	OLVGN:W8FNW-1
PERRY:WA8WNI-2	PVILLE:N8KQE-4	SENECA:WB8JUI-4	STEUB:KC8JN-1
TUSCO:K8KSN-1	TUSCOS:K8KSN-3	WAKIP:KB8EIY-4	WAYNE:K8EIW-13
YNG:W8QLY			

The names or numbers in front of the node callsigns are an ALIAS which can be used in lieu of the callsign when connecting.

Another interesting command is the "Routes" command. This command will tell you what "neighbor" nodes your local node can see. Experienced users can examine a routes list and fairly well tell what the band propagation conditions are currently by the number of routes in the list.

R   Gives a display similar to this:

AKR:K8EIW-1 Routes:
   1 K8EIW-2 225 53 !
 > 1 K8EIE-4 255 1 !
   1 K8EIW-11 225 49 !
   1 WB8BII-10 225 22 !
   1 K8EIW 225 1 !
   0 K8EIW-10 130 2

Where:
> - ROUTE CURRENTLY IN USE
1 - RS-232 (NODE STACK CONNECTION)
0 - RF (RADIO ROUTE)
130 - 255 - PATH QUALITY
0 - 53 - # of NODES VIA THIS ROUTE
! - ROUTE VALUE IS LOCKED

To determine how this node connects to a distant node and how "fresh" the routing information is, you can type:

N #CLEDX   Gives a display similar to this:

Routes to #CLEDX:WB8BII-9:

193 5 1 K8EIW-2
Where: The first number is the "path quality"
          The second number is the obsolescence (6= most recent)
          (decrements by 1 every 1/2 hour)
          The 3rd number is the route (1-RS232 or 0-RF)
          The callsign is the "neighbor node's" callsign

To see who else may currently be using the node, type:

U   Gives a display similar to this:

#CLEDX:WB8BII-9   The Net Version 1.0 (676)
Uplink(W8UNB)   <--> Downlink(W8UNB-15 K8AZ)
Uplink(W8UNB)   <--> Circuit(#MANDX:WB8BII-12 W8UNB)
Circuit(460420:K8EIW-4 K8EIW-4)

One useful command that you may need when hopping across many nodes is the "I" command. This command will often yield additional information about the node (IF it is of TheNet variety!) or at the very least, will tell you where you are currently connected!

I   Gives this result at this node:

#CLEDX:WB8BII-9
Cleveland OH 221.11 with access to the Clev. area
PacketCluster Nodes
Part of the K8EIW/WB8BII Ohio Packet Network. Use and Enjoy!

The real useful command is the "CONNECT" command. After examining the nodes command and determining that the node is directly reachable from your local node. For purposes of this discussion, let's assume that the person you wish to contact listens to the Columbus LAN. You would type to the node: C K1LT-3 or C CMHLAN. After some period of time, you should receive the results, hopefully:

AKR:K8EIW-1 Connected to CMHLAN:K1LT-3

From this point, you can then connect to your friend (C <callsign>) who has been eagerly awaiting your call and the qso can begin. To terminate the connection, you would go to the command mode of your tnc and issue the normal disconnect command.

Should the connection "fail" somewhere along the route, you may try to connect to intermediate nodes along the way. One of the shortcomings of the NetRom sustem, is that nodes sometimes get quite busy with channel traffic and their timers may expire before the distant node is reached. To overcome this, it is necessary to select an intermediate node, where the probability of a faster connect is bigger and continue on towards your destination. Another suggestion when trying long distance connects, use the call-sign rather than alias! NetRom often will not report a failure to connect with an alias, but it will report the failure with the callsign.

Similar commands are used if you wish to connect to one of the PacketClusters in the area. Two in the immediate area are K8AZ and W8UNB which are both accessible from the #CLEDX:WB8BII-9 node. (The "#" IS PART OF THE ALIAS!) To reach them, connect to your local node, issue the command C WB8BII-9, then C K8AZ or C W8UNB.

There are a couple of other node commands available to the user. One is the "CQ" command. When you issue a CQ to the node, it will send out the "CQ" with your callsign on it and place it in the user table. Others who connect to the node and do the "Users" command, will see your callsign in the list (with a -15 ssid) and then can connect to you through the node. You may add a message to the CQ command - such as CQ FIELD DAY FROM CFARC. The CQ is sent out from the node only once and remains active in the list for about 10 minutes.
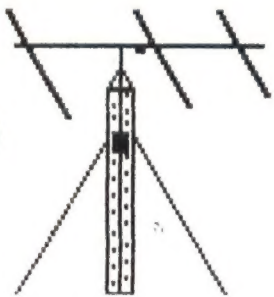
For those of you that monitor the channel, the "garbage" that you have seen is the bit-shifted data that the nodes send to each other to establish, maintain and tear down logical connections. Most TNC programs now have a filter to remove that "garbage" from your screen.

Just one more comment. Most all BBS's have the SAME messages, so it is not necessary to connect to a distant BBS thru the network to read the bulletins. All that does is add to the network congestion! Use your local system!
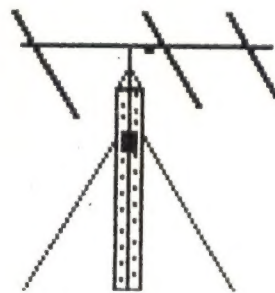
That's about all there is to it! Try it sometime!   73 de Don K8EIW

(From Cuyahoga Falls RC "THE CHATTERING RELAY")

JANUARY
1991
CANTON ARC

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 ARES 7PM SDXA 8PM NEW YEAR'S DAY	**2** CFARC QCWA NET	**3** TUSCO RC ALLN RC	**4** MARC 8PM KA8MNS BD	**5**
6 MUTUAL AID NET WA8RQX BD	**7**	**8** ARES 7PM	**9** W8FEC BD QCWA NET	**10** ESC N&I NET 9PM GARC	**11** WB8JAY BD	**12**
13 MUTUAL AID NET AK8W BD	**14** TRUSTEE'S MTG ELYRIA ARC	**15** ARES 7PM W8IM BD B&W RC	**16** CARC 7:30PM CFARC	**17** ESC N&I NET 9PM TUSCO & SARA WA8NZE BD	**18**	**19** VHF SWEEPSTAKES
20 MUTUAL AID NET VHF SWEEPSTAKES	**21** NOARS W8UIL BD	**22** ARES 7PM LEARA	**23** PORTAGE RC QCWA NET	**24** ESC N&I NET 9PM	**25**	**26** GOODYEAR VE CQ WW 160 MTR CW CONTEST
27 MUTUAL AID NET CQ WW 160 MTR CW CONTEST	**28**	**29** ARES 7PM WB8MSE BD	**30** QCWA NET	**31** ESC N&I NET 9PM		

COMPILED BY K8JZN